Governance, Government will fully protect the existing percentages of reservation for SCs, STs and Backward Classes, both at the Central and State levels, and extending the provision of reservartions beyond the year 2000 when they come up renewal. Government is also committed to adequately safeguard the interest of these sections of society by appropriate legal, executive and societal efforts and by large scale education and employment, provide legal protection to existing percentages of reservation in educational institutions at the State level, and continue to offer all assistance to SCs, STs and Backward Classes to ensure their speedy socio-economic development. The various schemes and programmes of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment are designed to achieve these goals. The National Agenda for Goverance also envisages presenting a National Charter for Social Justice based on the principle of social harmony. Action for drawing up the Charter has been initiated.

Criteria for Granting ST Status

2130. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any criteria for granting Scheduled Tribe status to individuals residing in Scheduled areas;

(b) if so, the detials thereof;

(c) which are the areas in Uttar Pradesh which have been declared Scheduled areas for the said purpose; and

(d) the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No Sir. Criteria laid down for Scheduled Tribes are common for Scheduled Areas and non-Scheduled Areas.

(c) and (d) "Scheduled Area" have not been specified in Uttar Pradesh.

कुछ राज्यों में अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति की सूची

2131. **श्री चीमन भाई हरिभाई शुक्ला:** क्या **समाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) महाराष्ट्र, गुजरात और मध्य प्रदेश में ऐसी कौन-कौन सी जातियां हैं जो राज्य के कुछ क्षेत्रों में अनुसूचित जाति या अनुसूचित जनजाति की सूची में शामिल हैं और अन्य क्षेत्रों में शामिल नहीं हैं;

(ख) इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या यह मांग सरकार के समक्ष आई है कि इन जातियों को पूरे राज्य में अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति सूची में शामिल किया जाए; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार की उस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

समाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती मेनका गांधी): (क) कुछ क्षेत्रों में अनुसूचित जाति या अनुसूचित जनजातियों की सूचियों में सूचीबद्ध जातियां/समुदाय नीचे दिए गए हैं जो महाराष्ट्र, गुजरात और मध्य प्रदेश राज्यों के अन्य क्षेत्रों में शामिल नहीं हैं:—

राज्य	अनुसूचित जाति	अनुसूचित जनजाति
1. महाराष्ट्र	1	2
2. गुजरात	शून्य	10
3. मध्य प्रदेश	4	5

(ख) अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अनुसूचित जनजातियों को सूचीबद्ध करने का कार्य भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 341 तथा 342 के अनुसरण में किया जाता है।

(ग) और (घ) जी, हां। कुछ जातियों/जनजातियों के संबंध में प्रस्ताव प्रस्ताव हुए हैं तथा सरकार इस मुद्दे से अवगत है।

Review of Performance of Sail

2132. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item Captioned

Satyam fastest wealth creator; SAIL biggest wealth destroyer" which appeared in the "Hindustan Times" dated the 22nd February, 1999;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have reviewed the performance of SAIL in the third quarter of current financial year; if so, the details of such analysis in comparison to previous two quarters; and

(d) the remedial steps in the form of a contingency plan, if any, formulated and implemented for restoration of SAIL's health during last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) The news item appeared in Hindustan Times, dated 22-02-1999 is based on share prices in the stock market prevailing during the last five year and is not related to the real assets of the Company. Asset base of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) (Net Fixed Assets & Capital-work-in-Progress) has increased by 93% over the last five years. The market price of the share has declined over the years due to various reasons inter-alia including recession in the steel market all over the world, decline in the growth of consumption of steel in India affecting the profitability of the Company; share market sentiments, etc.

The performance of SAIL in the third quarter of the current financial year in comparison to the previous two quarter on production, sales and financial results are as under:

Production Performance

Parameters	Unit	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.
Saleable Steel	000T	1981	1983	2272

Sales Performance

Parameters	Unit	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.
Saleable Steel	000T	1686	2048	2180

Financial Performance

Parameters	Unit	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.
Sales/Other Income	Rs/Crs	3289	3722	3899
Profit/Loss (−)	Rs/Crs	−311	−306	−273

Government regularly monitors the performance of SAIL. It has taken following steps to improve the profitability of steel industry and to overcome the present problems:—

(i) To boost the demand and consumption of steel, a National Campaign has been launched.

(ii) To reduce input costs for steel making, the special import duty on several inputs such as coking coal (ash content <12%), non-coking coal (ash content <12%), metalluringical coke, ferro nickel, charge nickel and nickel oxide sinters, low silica limestone and graphite electrodes (<28") has already been waived.

(iii) Anti-during duty on Hot Rolled Coils imported from Ukraine and Russia has been imposed.

(iv) Rationalization of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for steel exports have been carried out to boost exports.

(v) A Steel Exporters' Forum has been set up to help steel exporters overcome bottlenecks in exports.

(vi) Enhanced project financing to steel sector by All India Financial Institutions and relaxation of ECB norms has been recommended.

(vii) Government has set up an Empowered Committee to examine and assist specific Research and Development Projects to improve technology for steel making and enhance quality of Indian Steel.

(viii) Floor Prices have been fixed by the Government in December, 1998 to prevent the cheap imports of cetain categories of steel.

SAIL has also taken the following steps for improving its performance:

* Greater emphasis on cost control measures.
* Introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for employees.
* Market oriented production and product-mix.
* Improvement in techno-economic parameters.
* Increasing sales through aggressive and customer oriented marketing.
* Exploring new ways to bridge the resource gaps through business restructuring initiatives.

Steel Production by Private Sector

2133. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the target of steel production by the private sector in the current year;

(b) the actual production achieved in the first quarter;

(c) whether private sector can fulfil the demands of steel of the country; and

(d) the average production ratio of private sector every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Government do not fix or monitor the target of steel production by private sector units. However, the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel estimates total demand and availability of finished steel on an annual basis. Based on this, the estimated availability of finished steel from the private sector units during 1998-99 is 15.012 Million Tonnes.

(b) The actual production of the finished steel achieved in the first quarter in respect of the private sector is 3.753 Million Tonnes.

(c) The Working Group on Iron and Steel for the IXth Five Year Plan has projected that the private sector units together with the Public Sector units would, by and large be in a position to fulfil the projected demand of steel of the country.

(d) the contribution of the private sector in the overall production of finished steel during 1997-98 and 1998-99 (upto Jan., 1999) are approximately 62% and 66.8% respectively.

इस्पात संयंत्रों की स्थापना

2134. **प्रो॰ रामबख्श सिंह वर्मा:**
श्रीमती पालती शर्मा:

क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में 1997-98 तक कितने इस्पात संयंत्र स्थापित हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार द्वारा नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में इस्पात संयंत्र स्थापित करने का प्रावधान रखा गया है; और